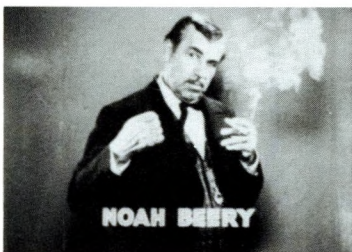


DON 'RED' BARRY



NOAH BERRY



TOMMY COOK



HARRY WORTH

TALLULAH BANKLYN



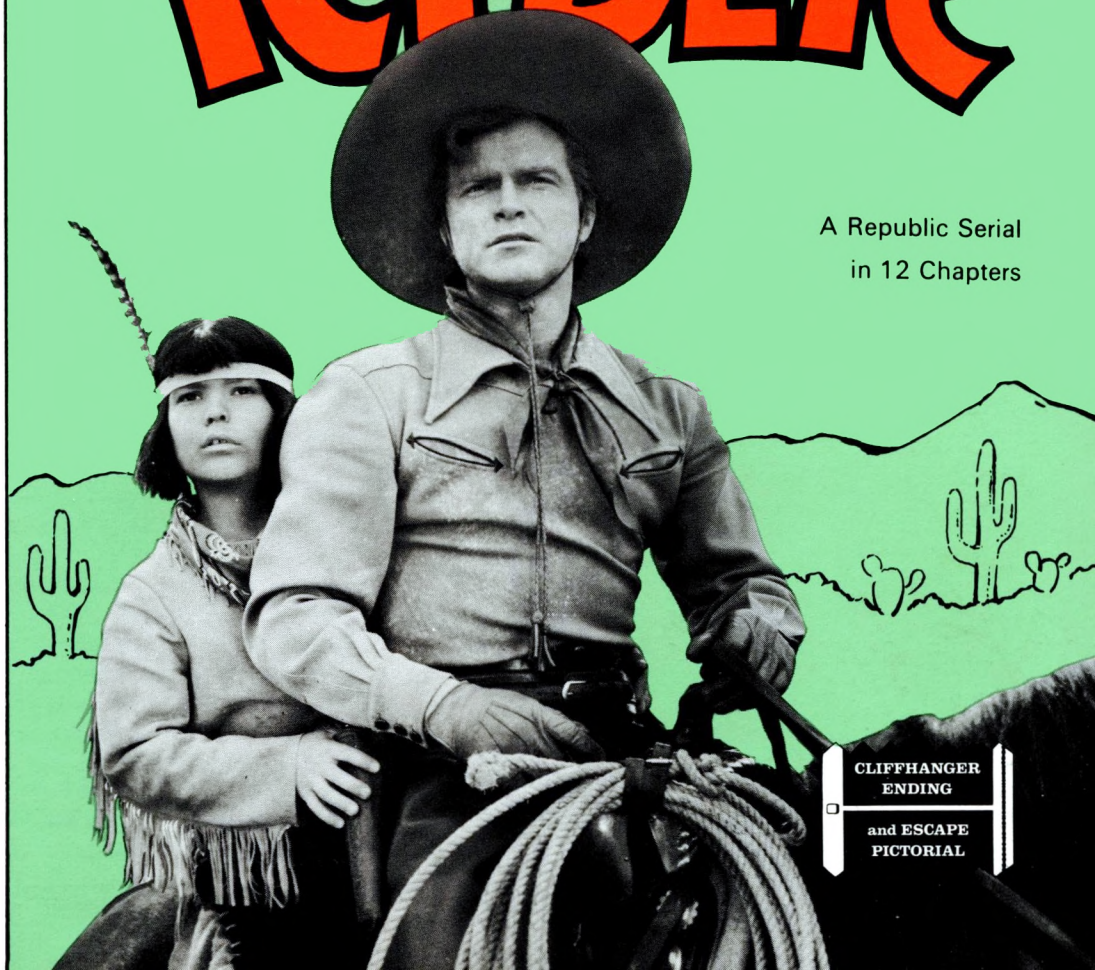
WILLIAM HAZARD
 DON 'RED' BARRY
 RAY YEAL
 GENE ALSACE
 GAYNE WHITMAN
 HOOPER ATCHLEY
 JOHN WILSON
 LLOYD INGRAM
 CHARLES HUTCHINSON
 GARDNER JAMES
 WHEATON CHAMBERS
 LYNN BENT



ADVENTURES OF

RED RYDER

A Republic Serial
 in 12 Chapters



CLIFFHANGER
 ENDING

and ESCAPE
 PICTORIAL

CAST

FEATURING

Red Ryder.....Don "Red" Barry
 Ace Hanlon.....Noah Beery
 Little Beaver.....Tommy Cook
 The Duchess.....Maude Pierce Allen
 Beth Andrews.....Vivian Coe
 Calvin Drake.....Harry Worth
 Cherokee Sims.....Hal Taliaferro

WITH

Colonel Tom Ryder.....William Farnum
 One Eye Chapin.....Bob Kortman
 Sheriff Luke Andrews.....Carleton Young
 Shark.....Ray Teal
 Deputy Lawson.....Gene Alsace
 Harrison.....Gayne Whitman
 Treadway.....Hooper Atchley
 Hale.....John Dilson
 Sheriff Luke Andrews.....Lloyd Ingraham
 Brown.....Charles Hutchinson
 H. S. Barnett.....Gardner James
 Boswell.....Wheaton Chambers
 Len Clark.....Lynton Brent

AND

Colonel Lang.....Edward Hearn
 Sammy Withers.....Dickie Jones
 Pete.....Matty Roubert
 Joe.....Roy Brent
 Ira Withers.....Ed Cassidy
 Dan Withers.....William Benedict
 Judd.....Curley Dresden
 Apache Kid.....Joe Delacruz
 Lon Walker.....Charles Robert Thomas
 Pecos Bates.....Bud Geary
 Wilson.....Jack Rockwell
 Seldeen.....Post Parks
 Jackson.....Fred Burns
 Masked Heavy 1.....Walter Stiritz
 Masked Heavy 2.....Dan M. White
 Stagecoach Driver 1.....Charles Murphy
 Bart.....Kenneth Terrell
 Water Trough Heavy 1.....Bill Wilkus
 Gus.....Bob Jamison
 Slade.....Reed Howes
 Johnson.....Bud Buster
 Ed Madison.....Ed Brady
 Breed.....Augie Gomez
 Slim.....Al Taylor
 Hall.....Ray Adams
 Bat Malloy.....Gus Shindle
 Race Judge 1.....Frank Conklin
 Race Judge 2.....Walter James
 Matt Grimes.....Ernest Sarracino
 Deputy Jones.....Bob Burns
 Cole.....Max Waizman
 Hank.....Jack Kirk
 Bartender.....James Fawcett
 Saloon Heavy.....Duke Green
 Stagecoach Heavy 1.....Art Dillard
 Stagecoach Driver 3.....Eddie Juaragui
 Also: David Sharpe, Joe Yrigoyen, Bill Yrigoyen.

FILE NOTES

Republic Serial No. 18—in 12 chapters.
 Production No. 997

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Classified and passed by the National Board of Review

Filming started.....March 27, 1940
 Filming ended.....April 25, 1940
 Total days to film.....29
 National Release Date.....June 28, 1940
 16mm footage [live].....7,614 feet
 Total running time.....211:32
 Chapter editing completed dates..[all 1940]
 1 [5-17], 2 [5-27], 3 [6-3], 4 [6-13],
 5 [6-18], 6 [6-24], 7 [7-1], 8 [7-9],
 9 [7-12], 10 [7-19], 11 [7-30], 12 [8-6].
 MPPDA Approved Certificates..6170-6173,
 6175-6181, 6207.

Music credited to.....Cy Feuer
 Compositions used, by: William Lava
 [11], Paul Sawtell [9], Stephen Foster
 [2]—arranged by Lava [1] and Sawtell [1].



ADVENTURES OF

RED RYDER

©1969 Red Ryder Enterprises, Inc.

Red Ryder—"America's Famous Fighting Cowboy"—remains today one of the most beloved and best-known western heroes in modern fiction. Still circulating in two comic books per month and under consideration for a proposed television series, Red began his exploits in an NEA Service syndicated newspaper strip in late 1938 under the creative aegis of Stephen Slesinger and panel wizardry of Fred Harman. The redhead's fame grew rapidly and resulted in one of the biggest merchandising campaigns in history that encompassed items ranging from apparel to air rifles, including comic and coloring books, Big Little Books, novels, records, radio shows and even a Red Ryder ranch in southern Colorado. The products were distributed throughout such diverse countries as Canada, Italy, Australia and Ceylon.

The overwhelming popularity enjoyed by Red Ryder could not be overlooked by the motion picture industry and, in 1940, Republic Pictures acquired screen rights and immediately placed ADVENTURES OF RED RYDER on its serial schedule. Don Barry, with his red hair and expert horsemanship, was a logical choice for the lead, and the Republic writers drew heavily on the gallery of comic strip personages, which were cast to real-life perfection: 10-year-old Tommy Cook as the Indian boy, Little Beaver, Maude Pierce Allen as the doughty Duchess, Hal Taliaferro as Red's sidekick, Cherokee Sims, Bob Kortman as One Eye Chapin, former Earl Carroll beauty Vivian Coe as Beth, and Noah Beery as an almost unbelievable look-alike for the cartoon character of Ace Hanlon, the redhead's chief antagonist.

There were, however, several deviations in the film version. While much of the comic strip action was centered around Painted Valley, the movie locale was Mesquite. The homestead, instead of the Duchess' ranch, was set at the Circle R, a spread owned by Red's father, Colonel Tom Ryder. Although the publications specified that Red was the Duchess' nephew, there was no mention of any relationship in the film. Beth Wilder, proprietor of Beth's Cafe in the comics, underwent a surname change to Beth Andrews and became merely a Circle R resident in the chapterplay after her father, Sheriff Luke Andrews, and Colonel Ryder are murdered in Chapter One. Both Beth and the Duchess were relegated to minor roles, with the Duchess being the ranch trouble-shooter while Beth, despite her culinary

talents, served only one meal in the entire 12 episodes. The greatest single departure from the comics' established format, however, was the usurping of Ace Hanlon's power to Calvin Drake, a shyster banker portrayed by Harry Worth, who not only bade Hanlon's secondary dirty work but actually killed him as a "bungler" in a fit of contempt in the final chapter. Fortunately, Ace's villainy continued to survive on paper as did the lives of Cherokee and One Eye, additional mortalities on celluloid. Death, in fact, seemed to hold a particular fascination in this serial and provided a peculiar anticlimax at the close of the last episode. Grappling in a fight to the finish along a suspension bridge, Red and Drake both fall into a deep chasm as the frayed bridge ropes give way and the picture fades out. In the final scene, Red's compatriots sit in mourning around the Circle R living room discussing bank drafts found on Drake's body and lamenting Red's demise, even though his body was not found. Miraculously, Red is suddenly seen approaching the ranch atop Thunder none the worse for his harrowing experience save for his arm encased in a sling, with no explanation ever given the mystified audience as to how he survived.

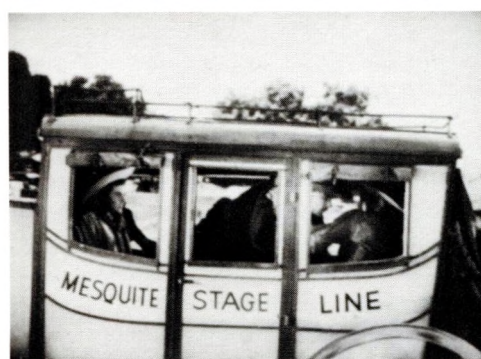
These qualms, to be sure, are minor and ADVENTURES OF RED RYDER has easily earned a revered spot in the "Golden Era" of Republic serials with its high production values, first-rate acting and direction and spectacular stunts and special effects. The well-executed, albeit typical, plot ["Formula B-16", to quote Associate Producer Hiram Brown, Jr.] centers around the unscrupulous town banker who, learning a railroad is coming through his territory, sets out to gain control of the right-of-way land and secretly engineers a war of intimidation to do it, although he is eventually thwarted by the forces of justice. Following the serial, Republic produced a string of 23 highly-successful Red Ryder feature-length films over a period of four years, commencing with TUCSON RAIDERS in 1944. Bobby Blake played Little Beaver in all 23, while William "Wild Bill" Elliott essayed the title role in the first 16 and Allan Lane completed the series. In 1952, Eagle-Lion produced four color features starring Jim Bannon as the redheaded cowboy.

Production Notes . . . assistant directors to William Witney and John English were Louis Germonprez and R. G. "Bud" Springsteen . . . William Lava, who based his euphonious main and end title themes on Stephen Foster's OH! SUSANNA, wrote 11 underscoring selections, which were augmented by nine additional tunes from Paul Sawtell. The Foster composition itself was used intact for both a chase piece [arranged by Lava] and a paraphrase [arranged by Sawtell]. This Red Ryder leitmotif was also whistled by Little Beaver in Chapter Five as a warning signal . . . although there was virtually no stock footage used in this production aside from the burning rafters collapsing into the jail at the end of Chapter Eight (lifted from the Chapter 13 cliffhanger in DICK TRACY), Republic utilized extensive Red Ryder footage in their 1948 serial, ADVENTURES OF FRANK AND JESSE JAMES. The costumes worn by Clayton Moore and Steve Darrell in the latter title closely approximated Don Barry and Hal Taliaferro's outfits for the necessary long-shot identifications . . . stunt doubling for Don Barry was provided by David Sharpe and the Yrigoyen brothers, Bill and Joe. Bill had initially been signed alone as a general stuntman, but was injured during filming on April 10, 1940. His brother, temporarily borrowed from WAGONS WESTWARD, a Republic feature starring Buck Jones, replaced him to complete the serial assignment.



In a railroad Board of Directors meeting, Colonel Lang tempers his bleak picture of frontier bloodshed with assurance of military support should the Western Pacific decide to continue its westward expansion. Harrison calls for a vote on purchasing the balance of required right-of-way property and Hale leads the other members in voicing unanimous approval. H. S. Barnett wastes little time reporting this good news to Calvin Drake, president of the Mesquite Cattlemen's Bank, who vows to acquire all the necessary land titles and sell them to the railroad at his own price. Using Ace Hanlon as a middleman, Drake has him organize One Eye Chapin and his bandits to institute a reign of terror against the small Mesquite ranchers. Little Beaver, playing with Sammy Withers, rides for help when he sees One Eye, Pete, Joe and Sam approaching the Withers' corral. Ira Withers and his older son, Dan, bravely try to fend off the raid but are killed and Sammy is about to be gunned down when Red Ryder arrives, guns ablaze. Red takes Sammy to the Circle R, where an incensed Colonel Tom Ryder decides on a course of action. At Drake's office, Red and his father propose a cattlemen's organization to rid the territory of gunmen and, when the Colonel leaves to swear out a murder warrant against Chapin, Drake enters a vault and descends to an underground passageway leading to Hanlon's headquarters—the back room of the saloon. Apprised of the situation, Ace has Judd, a saloon waiter, round up Shark, the Apache Kid and Lon Walker, who proceed to cold-bloodedly murder Colonel Ryder and Sheriff Luke Andrews in the lawman's office. Unseen by the gun-slingers, Beth Andrews witnesses the cruel scene from a storeroom and sobs their names when Red enters a few moments later. Red stalks resolutely toward the saloon, pausing just long enough to slug Pecos Bates, who was defaming Colonel Ryder to a group of townspeople. Wilson holds several patrons in abeyance to keep the fight fair as Red calls for a draw. The Apache Kid and Walker are swiftly cut down and Shark tries to surrender but Red slides a gun along the bar to him. Little Beaver, seeing Judd raise a rifle, deflects the butt with an arrow. Red shoots Judd and is savagely pummeling Shark when Sheriff Dade separates the men and hauls the murderer off to jail. Dade, secretly in league with Hanlon, later allows himself to be tied up to cover a phony escape, but Little Beaver overhears Ace's plan for Shark to gain asylum across the border on the mail stage. While Little Beaver feverishly rides to warn Red at the Circle R, Shark observes Beth loading a buckboard near the jail and forces her into the stagecoach. Red gallops hard across country on Thunder, eventually overtaking and transferring to the speeding stage. He knocks Seldeen, the driver, reeling off to the roadside, and jumps on the wagon tongue preparing to rein in the team when Shark opens fire from inside the coach. Red drops to the ground, then quickly grabs the rear axle, pulling himself back aboard and delivering Shark a knockout blow. Suddenly the horses break away and Red shelters Beth as the coach rolls off a washed-out bridge and falls into a deep chasm.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



THE ESCAPE

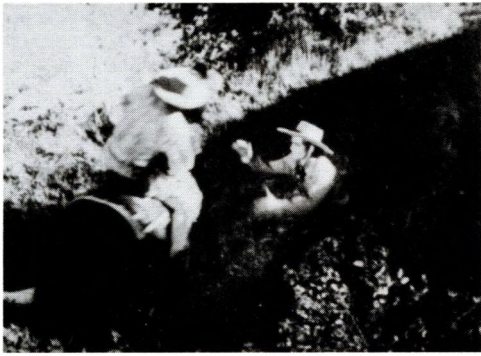


As the mail stage floats to the surface of a lake, Red pulls Beth through a window and they swim ashore while Shark revives in the half-submerged coach. He tries a presumptuous swim for freedom, but Red lassoes him and the trio returns to the Circle R. Amid Shark's vitriolic threats that his friends will see to his continued liberty, Red has Cherokee Sims ride into Mesquite with word for Sheriff Dade that the murderer will be brought in that afternoon. When Dade relays this information to Hanlon but refuses to participate in another mock jail break, Ace uses the secret passageway and holds counsel with Drake. The banker has received word from Barnett that the Western Pacific plans to build through Mesquite sooner than expected and, fearing Shark's capture may upset his land-grabbing plans, he orders Ace to see that the gunman does not reach town. Red no sooner leaves his ranch with the prisoner bound in the back of the buckboard than One Eye and three heavies close in from behind, their guns blazing. One of the outlaws takes a bullet and pitches from his mount while Red, realizing the futility of attempting to outrun the horsemen, pulls the kingpin and escapes on the team. The wagon rolls to a stop and One Eye looks in consternation at a straw dummy sitting in the back. Little Beaver arrives in town with Shark concealed in a hay wagon, much to Hanlon's chagrin. He whispers instructions to Pecos as Red enters the jail and requests Deputy Lawson for a session with Shark to find out who hired him. Lawson hedges at first, but then "remembers" that he hasn't gotten around to booking the killer as yet and asks Red to watch the prisoner while he prepares the necessary papers. While Lawson calmly writes at his desk, Red and Shark tear the office apart until, whipped, Shark breaks down. He is about to tell all when Pecos fires through a window with deadly accuracy. Shark keels over and Red rides out of town in pursuit of Pecos as Dade, Lawson and Cherokee organize a posse. Red spurs Thunder up a higher trail in some rocks ahead of Pecos, makes a running dismount and dives on the assassin, bulldogging him from his horse. The two men lay stunned on the ground as the posse rounds a blind turn at full gallop directly toward them, the pounding hoofs spelling certain death.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



THE ESCAPE



Red groggily picks himself up and shouts to Cherokee, who reaches out and scoops his friend onto his horse as Pecos is trampled to death. At the Cattlemen's Bank, when Drake ventures that Pecos was apparently the last one of the gang, Red optimistically foresees the return of those ranchers who were burned out and run off their property. The banker offers to start a rebuilding fund and Red, Jackson and Brown each declare contributions from their last cattle shipments. Brown and Jackson prepare to wire the stockyards to have the money sent by mail stage when Red interjects that a trustworthy guard should accompany the shipment since it represents nearly all the cattlemen's ready cash. Drake shrewdly suggests Sheriff Dade for the job, then meets with Hanlon to arrange a holdup. The next day Masked Heavies 1 and 2 assault the stagecoach and Dade, after purposely jamming his rifle, orders Driver 1 to stop. The crooked sheriff is in the process of handing over the money pouch when Red and Cherokee appear, ordering the masked men to drop their guns. Returning to Mesquite, Red helps Dade with the prisoners while Beth watches the stage driver turn over the money to Drake. Suddenly, Pete and Bart ride down the main street firing their guns as Street Heavies 1 and 2 slug Drake and hand the pouch to the passing horsemen. Cherokee, Brown and several cattlemen give chase as Pete and Bart, reaching open country, decide to split up, unaware they are being observed by Little Beaver. The boy sees Bart heading South to create the impression he is making for the border, then, unable to attract Cherokee's attention, he trails Pete to an old mine, marking the way with a series of arrows. Red, who has gotten a late start, follows the arrow signs and sends Little Beaver to get Cherokee while he apprehends Pete and Bart outside a miner's shack. One Eye appears, however, and Red ducks behind a building as lead begins to fly. Pete tackles Red but is kicked backward into Bart, sending both men sprawling and giving Red an opportunity to break for the mine entrance. He fires from behind an ore car until the blistering cross fire forces him into the shaft. The ore-hauler is released and Red, reaching the end of the extremely narrow tunnel, backs against the end wall as the car hurtles toward him.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING

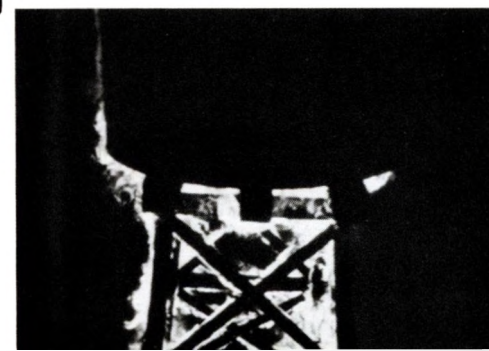
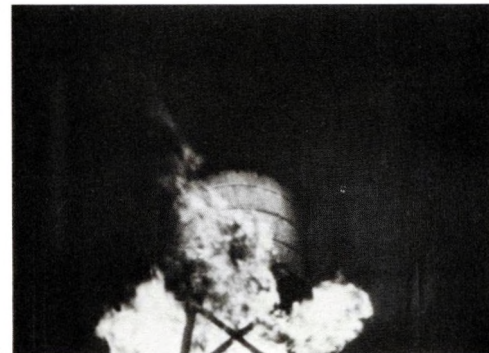


THE ESCAPE



Red drags a piece of timber across the tracks and flattens himself against the wall as the ore car derails in front of him. He later accompanies the Duchess to Drake's office, where she signs a mortgage on the Circle R to provide money for the needy ranchers. When the Duchess explains that she will meet the 30-day repayment deadline by delivering a herd to market, Drake has Hanlon send some men to ruin the limited Circle R water supply, thus preventing shipment of the cattle. Water Hole Heavies 1 and 2 busy themselves poisoning Coyote Creek as Little Beaver pauses for a drink downstream, but his horse persists in muddying the water until the boy discovers an empty poison sack. Red and Cherokee respond to Little Beaver's smoke signal and their approach is spotted by the outlaws. They try to escape, but Little Beaver has tied a rope to their saddles, which are jerked off the galloping horses, sending the men stunned to the ground. Cherokee takes charge of them while Red checks the other water holes. Night falls as he observes Water Trough Heavies 1 and 2 lighting a fuse to dynamite the large Sand Canyon watering trough, and the vicious fistfight that ensues terminates when Red's leg becomes wedged between two logs on top of the trough. The desperadoes flee as the fuse sputters toward the explosives while Red attaches a rope from one log to Thunder's saddle horn and is freed seconds before the blast. Having heard his opponents mention the imminent destruction of the North pasture water storage tank, Red spurs Thunder in that direction as Bart and Gus hack away at the tank's supporting members with axes. They then pile brush around the base and saturate the cross pieces with oil to finish the job and Bart is about to set it off, using a torch, when Red arrives and opens fire. Gus shoots a lantern hanging on the tank pole which falls and breaks, igniting the oil as Red leaps at Bart, knocking him out in a quick tussle. Gus throws his empty gun at Red, who ducks, and then takes on his assailant beneath the tank, which is rapidly being consumed by the spreading flames. Red takes a terrific blow that sends him reeling backwards over an upended piece of lumber and he collapses in a heap as the fire-weakened supports crack and the big tank falls directly toward him.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



THE ESCAPE



Red comes around as the tank begins to fall, and sprints away from the crushing pyre. At the breakfast table the next morning, the Duchess reminds everyone that without water the beef herd will be unmarketable and she will be unable to take up the Circle R mortgage. Red tells Cherokee to drive the cattle through Sundown Pass onto Wilson's Lazy W spread and, after instructing Beth to inform the rancher of their plight, rides into Mesquite with Little Beaver. Slade, seeing the cattle drive, duly informs Ace Hanlon who, in turn, reports to Drake. Unwilling to let foreclosure of the Circle R property slip through his fingers, the banker has Hanlon subordinate the job of blasting Sundown Pass full of rocks to One Eye. While Red places an order for water pump replacement parts at Johnson's store, Little Beaver, attempting to get an apple from the apple barrel outside, falls in head first. Ensconced in the cask, he overhears Joe and Slade discussing blockage of the Pass to thwart Red's endeavors to water the herd. Joe spears an apple with his pocket-knife and he and Slade walk away, but react as Little Beaver clambers out of the barrel. Fearing he has heard too much, they drag the struggling boy to a nearby barn and tie him up. Leaving the store, Johnson points to the open knife lying on the boardwalk amid the strewn apples and Red, suspecting something is wrong, follows Little Beaver's pony to the barn. Joe gags Little Beaver when he begins whistling Red Ryder's tune, but Red has already gotten the message and climbs a rope to the hayloft. He parries Slade's pitchfork thrust and knocks him and Joe through the platform railing onto the barn floor below. When Slade begins shooting, Little Beaver jumps on Red's back and they slide down the rope onto Thunder and gallop off. When the boy finally repeats what he heard while in the barrel, Red races to intercept Beth as One Eye supervises Bart and Breed placing powder kegs in the cliff rocks. Red spots Beth at a distance, but she mistakes his warning shots as those of an attacker and spurs her horse faster toward Sundown Pass. Firing back at her pursuer, Beth is knocked to the ground by a low tree limb. As the cattle enter the pass and Red tries to awaken Beth, the cliff above them explodes, burying them under an avalanche of rocks.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING

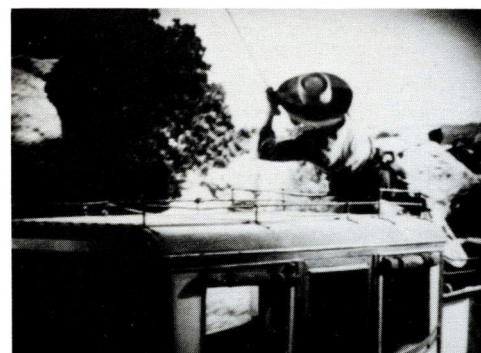


THE ESCAPE



Red places Beth under a rock ledge protecting them from the landslide but the passage, the only expedient cattle trail to the Lazy W, is hopelessly blocked. When Hanlon later notifies Drake that the Circle R livestock has been moved onto the Bar M for watering, the banker visits Ed Madison with a trumped-up story that, since the Territorial Banking Commission will not allow delinquent accounts, he will have to take over the property unless the mortgage is paid within three days. Lamenting that he cannot possibly raise the cash, Madison takes Drake's suggestion to charge Red and the Duchess for the water rights rather than lose his ranch. As Red and Madison discuss their mutual monetary problems, Little Beaver arrives with a solution in the form of a poster advertising the Wells Fargo Stagecoach Race with a \$1,000 prize for the winner. Noting Red signing up for the race, Hanlon concocts a scheme to keep him out of the competition. Breed lies prostrate along the Circle R trail next morning and, when Red stops to investigate on his way to the contest, One Eye pinions his arms with a lariat dropped from a tree and takes him to an old line rider's shack in Dark Canyon. Back in Mesquite, Ace, irritated that Red was not killed outright, orders Breed to return with Slim on the supply wagon and finish the job. Little Beaver, playing with his bow, crawls into the wagon to retrieve a stray arrow and remains hidden under the canvas when he hears of Red's impending fate. Apparent that Red has been waylaid, Cherokee takes his place on one stagecoach and Hall and Bat Malloy, two of Hanlon's men, board the other as Judges 1 and 2 signal the race to start. Meantime, One Eye receives his instructions and hands Red a shovel to dig his own grave while, atop the shack, Little Beaver drops a handful of cartridges down the chimney and they go off inside the stove. Red whirls at the distraction, swings mightily with the shovel and quickly subdues One Eye, Breed and Slim. Hall has lassoed Cherokee from the driver's seat, but Red has ridden out and soon transfers to the driverless coach and resumes the neck-and-neck rivalry. Slade watches the approaching teams, then climbs an overhanging tree and drops a noose around Red's neck. The rope summarily tightens, and Red is yanked from the boot.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



THE ESCAPE



The sudden tension as the rope is stretched taut pulls Slade out of the tree, freeing Red before he is drawn off the stage. He again takes up the reins and wins the race handily, much to the dismay of Hanlon, who watches the finish with Matt Grimes. Madison gives Red a receipt for the prize money, which he accepts as payment on the water rights, and asks Red to deliver the cash to Drake. Grimes, attempting to shoot Red from ambush, is spotted by Madison, who knocks his friend down as the shot is fired. Madison is killed when he runs for cover with Red and, when Dade and Lawson arrive and find Red holding the money and Madison's receipt, they arrest him for murder. Cherokee, leading Thunder, approaches from behind the group, kicks Dade to the ground and he and Red escape. Eluding the posse, Red hands Cherokee the money bag for deposit with Drake, then outlines his next step to capture the real killer. Hanlon, at Drake's behest, enters the local saloon where Cherokee is laughing it up with several townspeople and begins pumping the cowboy for information. When Cherokee intimates that Red knows where to find the murderer, Slim leaves the bar and mounts his horse, unaware that Red, seated outside dressed as an Indian, is shadowing him. Slim rides to a cave and advises Grimes to cross the border but, as they depart, Red somersaults from a ledge above the entrance, grabs Slim and shoots the gun from Grimes' hand. Red subdues Slim, then lights out after Grimes, bulldogging him from his horse as Little Beaver arrives. Red sends the boy for Cherokee and some Circle R ranch hands while he takes the prisoner to the secluded Outpost shack. Red ties Grimes to a chair and proceeds to whittle the figure of a man, which he dangles on a noose in front of the nervous prisoner, while Little Beaver, learning that Cherokee has been incarcerated as an accomplice in Red's escape, proceeds to the jail. Given all the particulars, Dade puts the boy and Cherokee at ease by dispatching a posse to bring in the assassin. Red, having extracted an unusual signed confession from Grimes, mistakes the approach of Slade and his cohorts for Cherokee and prepares to exit the shack. As the door opens, the outlaws fire and a body falls to the ground.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING

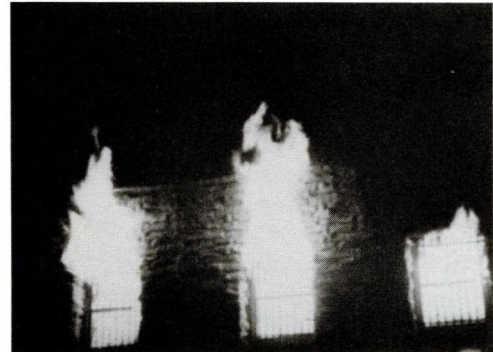


THE ESCAPE



Red is about to respond to his name being called when Grimes knocks him down, bursts through the door and is killed. When Slade discovers the body on the porch is Grimes, he and his men chase after Red, who has escaped through a back window. Losing his pursuers by jumping Thunder over a wide ravine, Red returns to Mesquite and tells Dade that, since there was no paper in the shack, Grimes wrote his confession on a table. Dade insists on locking Red in the cell with Cherokee until he can corroborate this unusual evidence and, after making a quick report to Hanlon, he and Lawson head for the shack. Coming to the realization that Dade was the only person who could have sent the bushwhackers to the shack the previous night, Red whistles for Thunder and reaches between the cell window bars, pulling a rifle from the saddle. Deputy Jones is forced to free the prisoners and they ride ahead to the Outpost shack after spotting Slade, Pete, Breed and Slim heading in that direction to destroy the table-top confession. Cherokee moves to disarm the four heavies, but Breed throws a jug at him, starting a fight. When Slim sees Dade and Lawson approaching and shouts a warning, the desperadoes withdraw from the fracas and vamoose. As Red accuses Dade of conspiracy, Cherokee smoothly slips the lawman's gun from its holster and Dade convicts himself by trying to draw. Apprised that Dade will tell everything unless he is broken out of jail, Drake has Hanlon contact One Eye and, that night, Slim and Slade brazenly enter the sheriff's office. Cherokee and Lawson are backed against a wall as Red, anticipating such a move, steps out and commands the outlaws to drop their guns. One Eye steps through the door and from behind slugs Red while Slim attacks Cherokee as an oil lamp broken in the melee erupts in flames. One Eye cracks Lawson over the head with his gun butt, then trains the pistol on Cherokee, ordering him to unlock Dade's cell. This accomplished, Slim knocks out Cherokee in the cell and relocks the door. As the heavies retreat from the blazing jail, Red regains consciousness and shoots Dade, then drags Lawson outdoors. Plunging back inside the burning building, Red frenetically grabs the keys off the floor but, just as he releases Cherokee, the ceiling rafters collapse on them.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING

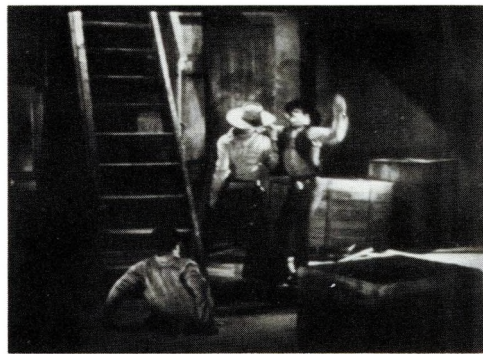


THE ESCAPE



Red and Cherokee side-step the falling rafters, then climb a ladder to the skylight and jump to the roof of a neighboring building. The Duchess happily announces the cattle shipment money is to arrive by stagecoach that evening but, since the Circle R note is legally due before bank closing time, she and Red decide to play it safe and request a brief extension from Drake so he cannot foreclose on a technicality. Drake is unable to oblige, however, claiming certain mortgages, including the Circle R's, have been liquidated and sold to the S & S Land Company, an Eastern concern that recently opened a local office. While Red and Cherokee ride to intercept the stage and bring back the cash, the Duchess calls on Cole at the S & S branch and is told that foreclosure will result unless he has the payment by six o'clock. Hank, a stage guard riding with Driver 2, turns the money bag over to Red and Cherokee, who start on their return trip across Buffalo Flats where One Eye, Slim and Joe lie in wait. They stretch a rope across the road between two trees and, at the propitious moment, One Eye yanks it taut, brushing Red and Cherokee from their saddles. Slim tries to mount Thunder, but Red whistles and the horse rears as Little Beaver, observing the action from a distance, gallops past and grabs the money pouch. While Red and Cherokee battle Slim and One Eye, Joe chases Little Beaver, but the boy stays ahead of him and arrives at the land office with a scant 30 seconds to spare. Having regained possession of the Circle R, Red and the Duchess, angered because they were not granted the brief extension, interrogate Cole. His uncooperative attitude as to who is behind the company causes Red to leave town to pick up Len Clark, the County Recorder. Hanlon, afraid Red will learn he is the head of S & S, sends Slade, Joe, Slim and Bart to the Recorder's office. Slade and Bart descend to the basement vault and rig a dynamite fuse while, upstairs, Clark is slugged when he enters the building. Red overpowers Joe and Slim, then tangles with Slade and Bart in the cellar as the fuse burns closer to the charge. Exchanging blows with Slade, Red is brought down in front of the vault door by Bart, who cracks him over the head with a stool. The explosion blows the heavy vault door to the floor.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING

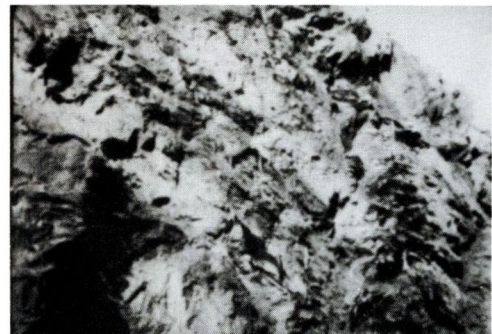
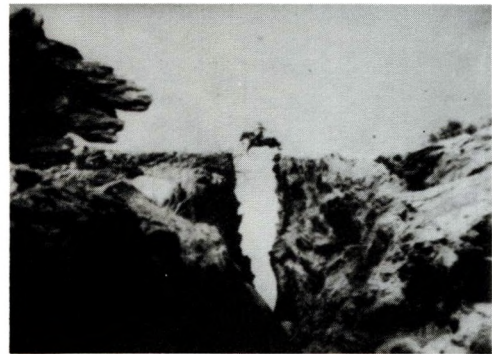


THE ESCAPE



Regaining consciousness and crouching behind a large cabinet, Red escapes the effects of the blast. He rummages through the files in the wrecked vault, then finding Clark uninjured, they begin to check the records. Anticipating Red's discovery that Hanlon owns the S & S Land Company, Drake requests Ace for power of attorney so he can dispose of the S & S holdings. The banker shows Ace a letter from Barnett stating that Boswell, the land buyer for the Western Pacific, will shortly arrive in Mesquite to open negotiations. Much to Drake's dismay, Hanlon pockets the incriminating missive as security. Red enters the saloon and starts for Hanlon's office, but the bartender hurls a beer keg at him and a heavy leaps from the balcony to join the fray. Hearing the commotion, Drake tells Ace to make for the cave hideout as Red floors the heavy and boots the bartender through a window. He breaks down the office door with a chair and, finding it empty, leaves by the back entrance where George, a cowpuncher, points the direction taken by Ace. Spear fishing at a lake edge with bow and arrow, Little Beaver hides behind some brush as Hanlon rides past, then he informs Red, who approaches shortly thereafter. Red tracks the hoofprints to the cave, slugs and ties up Slade outside and walks in with both guns leveled as Hanlon tells One Eye and Slim the big boss is on his way. Red orders them to keep silent when he hears a horse nearing the cave, but Slade shouts a warning and Drake flees as One Eye throws a piece of wood at Red, starting a brawl. Ace immediately withdraws and slaps leather to join up with Drake while Red continues his fight with Slim and One Eye inside the cavern. Slim is tripped and falls unconscious to the ground and Red delivers a stiff uppercut to One Eye, runs outside, mounts Thunder and races to overtake Hanlon and the other rider. He spots the men at a distance, opens fire and Ace pitches from the saddle, rolling into a clump of bushes. Once Red takes a cursory look at the body and rides on, Ace rises unscathed, pleased that his ruse has worked. Determined to identify the other horseman, Red takes a desperate gamble and attempts to jump Thunder across a deep, narrow gorge. But Thunder's hind legs slip from the embankment, plunging them into the breach.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



THE ESCAPE



Red and Thunder fall into a lake at the base of the crevasse. Drake's curiosity is appeased when Red tells him and Lawson that Hanlon is dead and the other man got away before being identified. Learning that Lawson has sent for Commissioner Treadway, the Government land agent, to check property titles, Drake returns to his office where One Eye awaits. The outlaw reports Hanlon's continued existence and allays the banker's apprehension by offering to take care of Treadway before he can inspect the ill-gotten deeds. Having noticed One Eye leaving town, Cherokee alerts Red and Lawson as One Eye and Stagecoach Heavies 1, 2 and 3 attack the stage. They pick off Driver 3 and a guard but Red, Cherokee and Lawson intervene, killing Heavies 2 and 3. Red stops the runaway team while Cherokee, chasing with Lawson after One Eye and Heavy 1, is shot from his horse. He dies soon after Red arrives with the coach, on which Treadway is aboard. Telling Lawson to take Cherokee back to Mesquite, Red sticks his partner's gun in his belt, then grimly tracks the fugitives to their shack hideout. He caustically relates the news that Cherokee is dead to Hanlon, Heavy 1 and One Eye, who snivels an unheeded excuse of self-protection. The heavy makes a quick move for a discarded gun, but Red shoots him and orders One Eye to rope Hanlon to a tree. Ace whispers for One Eye to remove the letter implicating Drake from his coat pocket, but Red swipes it from his hand. Then, despite One Eye's whining protestation, Red places a gun in the outlaw's holster, replaces his own weapon and, readying Cherokee's six shooter, demands a draw. One Eye is summarily cut down and Red, after scoring the final notch in his friend's gun handle, breaks the pistol against the porch in a fit of disgusted rage and throws it away. He peruses the important letter, then heeding Hanlon's warning that Drake will do away with Treadway, rides back to town, leaving Ace bound to the tree. Conforming to Hanlon's expectations, Drake confers with Slade, telling him that Treadway is coming to the bank to go over the S & S records. Slim takes his position on a roof and draws a bead on Treadway, but diverts the rifle towards Red, whom he sees approaching on horseback. Slim fires and Red pitches to the street.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



THE ESCAPE



On the ground, Red rolls over and fires with both guns toward the roof, killing Slim. Shown the letter which proves Drake has been manipulating the ranch purchases to his benefit, Treadway accompanies Red to the Cattlemen's Bank. Drake alibis his part in the land acquisitions, then hearing a knock from behind the vault door, maneuvers Red and Treadway to a filing cabinet so their backs are turned when Hanlon emerges. With Hanlon in control of the situation, Drake forces Treadway to sign an affidavit certifying the property deeds were legally acquired. Tom Mallory's voice through the door announces Boswell's arrival and Drake ushers in the land buyer after Ace has marched Treadway and Red through the passageway to his saloon office. Slade, Joe and Bart, ordered to execute the prisoners, file them into the basement, but Red shoves Treadway against Joe on the stairs and flips Bart over his shoulder. Red fires from the cellar floor, toppling Slade over the banister, and Bart is also killed when the gun he attempts to wrest from Red discharges. Treadway withdraws to fetch Sheriff Lawson while Red tangles with Joe. Having exchanged his railroad's bank drafts for the deeds, Boswell notes the approach of Treadway and Lawson, and Drake hastily excuses himself. He meets a disbelieving Hanlon in the underground passage and they make a check of the basement where Red and Joe are fighting. Drake announces he is pulling out, cold-bloodedly murders Ace for his bungling and leaves by the alley exit as Little Beaver rides up. The boy responds to Red's pounding on the door in Hanlon's office and shows him the way taken by the banker. Gradually being overtaken, Drake dismounts and runs across a narrow foot bridge. He severs one of the rope suspensions and hacks at the other as Red, making his way across the swaying span, knocks the knife from his hand with a thrown gun. The two men fight on the bridge until the final strands snap, plunging them down a sheer cliff wall. In the Circle R living room, Boswell states to the sad group the drafts found on Drake's body will be canceled and rightful negotiations opened. He eulogizes Red's death when the cowboy suddenly rides into the barnyard, hoists Little Beaver up behind him on his horse and says "We fooled them this time, Sprout."

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING





ADVENTURES OF **RED RYDER**

AMERICA'S
FAMOUS FIGHTING
COWBOY BATTLES
A LAWLESS BREED!

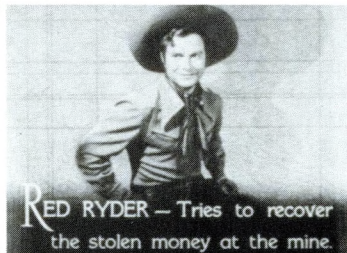


CHAPTER ONE MURDER ON THE SANTA FE TRAIL



America's first great problem
after the Civil War was
the construction of a railroad
to link our bordering oceans.
Selfish interests, seeking to
control the right-of-way,
fought the work savagely---

but the spirit of progress
prevailed and the United States
were bound together with
highways of steel.
But before the last spike
was driven the Frontier
flamed with the bitterest
strife in its history.



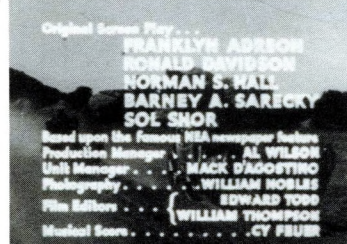
RED RYDER - Tries to recover
the stolen money at the mine.



WILLIAM WITNEY



HIRAM S. BROWN, Jr.



Original Screen Play...
FRANKLYN ADKIN
RONALD DAVIDSON
NORMAN S. HALL
BARNEY A. SARECKY
SOL SNOR

Based upon the Famous NEA newspaper feature
Production Manager... **AL WILSON**
Unit Manager... **MACK DAGOSTINO**
Photography... **WILLIAM NOBLES**
Film Editors... **EDWARD TODD**
Musical Score... **WILLIAM THOMPSON**
... **CY FRUEN**